

**Proposal to Change the Composition  
of the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University  
Report to the Senate  
May 25, 2011**

**BACKGROUND**

The establishment of the Council on Aboriginal Issues, now known as the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University, was approved by the Senate on November 26, 1992.

The purpose of the Council as stated in its terms of reference is "to ensure that for generations hereafter Aboriginal peoples will have access to higher education at Queen's University, and that the institution will be responsive to the broader needs of Aboriginal peoples."

The attached report and proposal to change the Council's composition was submitted on behalf of the Council by C. Davis, Vice-Principal (Finance and Administration) and Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Council. The Council has determined that it could discharge its duties more effectively by reducing its members from 44 to 24, while retaining the representative nature of its composition.

Also attached is a letter of support for the Proposal to Change the Composition of the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University from the Senate Educational Equity Committee.

**MOTION**

**The Senate endorses the proposal to change the composition of the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University as outlined in the attached report in Appendix K.**

## **PROPOSAL TO CHANGE COMPOSITION OF THE ABORIGINAL COUNCIL of QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**

### **PREAMBLE**

The Aboriginal Council of Queen's University (ACQU) was established in 1992, in conjunction with the Aboriginal Education and Training Strategy introduced by the Ministry of Education and Training (now the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities (MTCU)). The purpose of the Council as stated in its terms of reference is "to ensure that for generations hereafter Aboriginal peoples will have access to higher education at Queen's University, and that the institution will be responsive to the broader needs of Aboriginal peoples."<sup>(1)</sup> According to its mandate, the Council shall be involved in all decisions affecting Aboriginal programs and services at Queen's University. The Council is composed of representatives from Aboriginal communities in Ontario, Queen's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal student representatives, and senior University personnel. Other members of the University serve on the Council as needed.<sup>(2)</sup> The Council reports directly to the Senate and the Board of Trustees. The Council may receive funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities (MTCU) and Queen's University. Given that the function of ACQU encompasses the areas of Education, Policy, Program, Leadership, Curriculum Development, and Student Support, the composition of the Council has been designed to include representatives who can add meaningfully to the dialogue on issues being addressed. Further, it is important that the ACQU includes in its membership those who can act as the agents of change to ensure that decisions come to fruition.

### **RATIONALE**

The ACQU has determined that it could discharge its duties more effectively as a smaller Council, reducing its numbers from 44 to 24, while retaining the representative nature of its composition.

### **PROPOSED COMPOSITION**

One key element of the afore-mentioned Strategy is that Aboriginal Peoples be an integral part of the decision-making process of an institution with respect to Aboriginal programs and services.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the principle for membership is based on having at least 51% of representatives from the Aboriginal communities, which may also include the Aboriginal student representatives from the Queen's University community if required. Hence, Institutional representatives will be appointed in a number not to exceed 49% of the total membership of the Council. The ACQU is supported by a Secretary, ex-officio to the Council.

Another key element addresses the reporting structure(s). Access to the governing body(ies) may be through the chair of senior governing bodies for academic and financial matters and/or the executive head of the institution, if he or she is on an institutional Aboriginal council. If there is no Aboriginal person sitting on the governing bodies, it is expected that the Principal or President of the institution

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for Proposals, Ministry of Education and Training, Aboriginal Education and Training Strategy, page 6 (July 1993).

will be both a member of Aboriginal Council and also its representative on the governing body(ies). It is not appropriate for the point of access to be other officials such as the vice-president or dean.<sup>2</sup>

### Comparison: Proposed versus Current

	Proposed	Current
Co-Chair (Queen's)	*	1**
Co-Chair (Community)	*	1
Queen's University Community Representatives	9	29**
Queen's University Student Representatives	5	4
Aboriginal Communities Representatives	10	9
Secretary (ex-officio) (non-voting)	*	*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>44</b>

\* Co-Chairs to be selected from within member composition by the members

\*\* 30 of 44 members are Queen's representatives, or in other words, 68%

### Breakdown of Composition of Proposed Council

#### Queen's University Senior Administration Representatives (total of 4)

1. Queen's University Principal or designate
2. Provost & VP(Academic) or designate
3. VP(Finance & Administration) or designate
4. VP(Advancement) or designate

#### Queen's University Community Representatives (Faculty & Staff) (total of 5)

A total of five seats will be dedicated to faculty and staff members who are committed to the goals of the Aboriginal Council and may be involved in the development and delivery of academic programs and/or services of potential interest to Aboriginal students. The specific faculties, schools or departments represented may rotate to accommodate changes and initiatives pertinent to the work of the ACQU. As an example, initially seats may be assigned to those faculties/schools with current initiatives such as:

<sup>2</sup> Guidelines for Proposals, Ministry of Education and Training, Aboriginal Education and Training Strategy, page 7 (July 1993).

5. Faculty of Education
6. School of Policy Studies
7. Faculty of Engineering
8. Arts & Science
9. Faculty or Staff member at large

**Queen's University Student Representatives (total of 5)**

*(Note: Aboriginal students may be considered as external Aboriginal community members to achieve 51% Aboriginal community representation on ACQU, if required.)*

10. Queen's Native Student Association (QNSA) Aboriginal representative
11. Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) Aboriginal representative
12. Alma Matter Society (AMS) Aboriginal representative
13. Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE) Aboriginal representative
14. Aboriginal student at-large

**Aboriginal Communities Representatives (total of 10)**

15. Elder (1)
16. National/Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal organizations (2)
  - a. Metis Nation of Ontario
  - b. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
17. Local Aboriginal community (urban & rural) (7)
  - a. Sharbot Lake
  - b. Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte/Tyendinaga
  - c. Katarokwi Native Friendship Centre
  - d. Akwesasne
  - e. Curve Lake
  - f. Hiawatha
  - g. Alderville

ACQU meetings are open and all faculty, staff and student members of Queen's University who wish to attend its meetings are most welcome. On request, representatives of community organizations with an interest in Aboriginal students and Aboriginal issues in post-secondary education may also attend ACQU meetings.

Specific faculty or staff members may be invited to meetings occasionally when their participation and expertise may be needed for information and/or advice in relation to issues under discussion.

**Proposed process for the establishment of the newly revised ACQU**

Initial appointments will be made for one-year during which time a nominating committee will be struck. A process for the nomination of new members will be developed and nominations for members invited. New or renewed appointments will be made for 1 or 2 year terms in order to maintain some continuity

in membership on ACQU. In subsequent, appointments will normally be for two-year terms. All appointments are renewable for a second term.

Initial faculty appointments will be made by letter of invitation from the Principal, based on the recommendation of the Queen's University Co-Chair, ACQU.



Ms. Georgina Moore, Secretary of the Senate  
University Secretariat  
Room 153, Richardson Hall  
Queen's University

**RE: Letter of Support for the Proposal to Change Composition of the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University**

**May 12, 2011**

Dear Ms. Moore:

The Senate Educational Equity Committee reviewed the Proposal to Change Composition of the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University at its meeting on May 12, 2011. On behalf of the Senate Educational Equity Committee (SEEC), we are pleased to support a process of re-visioning the Council.

A re-constituted Council will better position itself to act in the best interests of the University and the Aboriginal communities with regard to student and Aboriginal initiatives. We encourage the Council to undertake, in partnership with the Board of Trustees and the Senate, new and continuing initiatives to increase participation, retention, and graduation of Aboriginal students at Queen's University.

The Senate Educational Equity Committee is pleased with the achievements of the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University and acknowledges that its ongoing efforts are a vital part of achieving educational equity and Aboriginal student success at Queen's.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me by email at [notash@me.queensu.ca](mailto:notash@me.queensu.ca) or by phone at extension 36778.

Sincerely,

L. Notash, Ph.D., P.Eng.  
Chair, Senate Educational Equity Committee

I. Bujara, Human Rights Office  
D. Dávila Aquije, Social Issues Commissioner, AMS  
N. Deshpande, School of Rehabilitation Therapy  
A. Foo, NCIC Clinical Trials Group  
A. Girgrah, Office of the Associate Vice-Principal and Dean of Student Affairs  
A. Grondin, SGPS Representative  
C. Hoessler, Faculty of Education  
A. Husain, Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)  
C. Morrison, Faculty of Education  
L. Notash, Mechanical and Materials Engineering (Chair)  
C. Pilgrim, Faculty of Law  
M. Singh, Physics  
M. Zulkernine, School of Computing & Electrical and Computer Engineering  
  
J. Christie (Secretary)